



# The United States Army Field Band

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The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
*Washington, DC*

## Bel Canto presents *Murder at the Opera*

**Bel Canto**, the opera educational outreach team of The United States Army Field Band, specializes in entertaining and informing students in the unique art form of opera. Bel Canto invites you and your students to enjoy a total theatrical experience combining beautiful music, drama, and comedy. *Murder at the Opera* by Edward Barnes is a thirty-minute one-act opera that combines arias, duets, and ensembles from major operatic works to create a mystery to be solved. The singers portray stars from opera's masterpieces, as well as detectives investigating a case of backstage murder. The audience gets into the act when the players need their help to determine the prime suspect. This clever *pasticcio*, or patchwork opera, introduces the basics of opera through witty dialogue and familiar themes.

If you wish to acquaint your students with the works included in *Murder at the Opera*, these excerpts are suggested:

Georges Bizet, 1838–1875

*Carmen*

- Carmen's arias, the Habañera and Seguidilla
- Act I: chorus of cigarette girls before Carmen's arrest

Giacomo Puccini, 1858–1924

*La Boheme*

- Mimi's aria, "Mi chiamano Mimi"

*Madame Butterfly*

- Act I: scene with Pinkerton and Butterfly after wedding party exits

*Tosca*

- Act I: from Scarpia's "Te Deum" to end of act
- Act III: from Tosca's "Vissi d'arte" to end of act

Giuseppe Verdi, 1813–1901

*Othello*

- Act I: Jago's "Credo"

*Rigoletto*

- Act III: quartet, starting at Maddelena's "Un dí se ben rammentomi"